

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
    INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
    SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /086 W  
    -----084839 071119Z /10

P R 071030Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4883  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1464

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: GY, US  
SUBJECT: FURTHER GUYANESE REACTION TO TODAMN TESTIMONY

REF: GEORGETOWN 1431

SUMMARY: PUBLICATION OF FULL TEXTS OF ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY TODMAN'S JUNE 28 TESTIMONY HAS BEEN FOLLOWED  
BY HIGHLY POSITIVE ARTICLES IN THE LOCAL PRESS. GIST  
OF ARTICLES IS THAT US INTENDS TO DEVOTE MORE ATTENTION  
AND RESOURCES TO THE REGION, INCLUDING GUYANA. SIGNS  
OF THIS WERE UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S VISIT AND PUBLIC  
STATEMENTS AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY.  
THE LATTER WAS DESCRIBED BY ONE PRESS ARTICLE AS  
"THE CLIMAX OF AN UNDOUBTED DETERMINED EFFORT (BY THE  
CARTER ADMINISTRATION) TO WORK OUT A SOUND POLICY TOWARD  
THE REGION..." ASPECTS SINGLED OUT FOR POSITIVE  
COMMENT WERE THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S ASSURANCES  
THAT THE US HAD NO QUARREL WITH GUYANA'S PATH TO  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND HIS RECOGNITION  
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OF GUYANA'S POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE  
ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF THE REGION. EXTENSIVE PRESS  
COVERAGE WITH PHOTOS OF THE EMBASSY'S FOURTH OF  
JULY RECEPTION SUPPLEMENTED THE COVERAGE OF THE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S REMARKS. END SUMMARY.

1. FAVORABLE TREATMENT GIVEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY

TODMAN'S JUNE 28 TESTIMONY BEFORE A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE CONTINUES. FULL TEXT WAS PUBLISHED PROMINENTLY BY GOG-OWNED GUYANA CHRONICLE IN TWO INSTALLMENTS IN JULY 2 AND JULY 4 EDITIONS. THE CHRONICLE'S AFTERNOON SISTER, "THE CITIZEN," OF JULY 5 CARRIED A FEATURE CENTERFOLD ARTICLE BY CHIEF POLITICAL REPORTER MOHAMED HAMALUDIN UNDER THE HEADLINE "U.S. RECOGNIZES GUYANA'S POTENTIAL IN REGION" AND SUB-TITLE "SWITCH IN CARIBBEAN POLICY." THE ARTICLE CONTAINED COMMENTARY AND QUOTES FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY AND FAVORABLE REPORTAGE ON EMBASSY'S JULY 4 RECEPTION. IT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTO OF OPPOSITION LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN AND HIS WIFE JANET ARRIVING AT THE US RECEPTION. FRONT PAGE OF SAME EDITION HAD A LARGE PICTURE OF PRESIDENT CHUNG, FONMIN WILLS, US CHARGE AND OTHERS AT THE JULY 4 RECEPTION WITH CAPTION "AMERICANS CELEBRATE."

2. IN ADDITION TO CARRYING EXTENSIVE QUOTES FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY, THE "CITIZEN" ARTICLE REFERRED TO UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S TWO-DAY VISIT AND THE CANCELLATION OF THE AIRBASE AGREEMENT. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY WAS DESCRIBED AS "THE CLIMAX OF AN UNDOUBTED DETERMINED EFFORT TO WORK OUT A SOUND POLICY TOWARDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REGION." IT REPORTED THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S THREE POINT MESSAGE BEGINNING WITH "THE REGION IS IN TROUBLE" AND FOCUSING ON THE STATEMENT THAT "WE NEED TO DEVOTE MORE ATTENTION AND MORE RESOURCES TO THE AREA..."

3. THE ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONED REMARKS THE US CHARGE MADE IN PROPOSING A TOAST AT THE JULY FOURTH RECEPTION, IN WHICH HE REFERRED TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON GUYANA, INCLUDING COMMENT THAT GUYANA HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF THE REGION AND THAT THE US HAS NO QUARREL WITH OR REASON TO FEAR GUYANA'S PATH TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE ARTICLE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S REMARK THAT THE US, BY COOPERATING WITH GUYANA, COULD "EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN (ITS) READINESS TO RESPECT DIFFERENT WAYS OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT."

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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4. COMMENT. THE EXTENSIVE AND POSITIVE PRESS TREATMENT OF THE COMBINATION OF UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S VISIT AND PUBLIC REMARKS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S TESTIMONY, AND THE US FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION APPEAR TO BE INTENDED BY THE GOG AS PREPARATION OF PUBLIC FOR CLOSER GOG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. THE MENTION OF A "SWITCH IN CARIBBEAN POLICY" AND THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE INTEREST OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN THE CARIBBEAN EFFECTIVELY REMOVE FROM THE PUBLIC'S MIND ANY HINDRANCES THAT PAST DIFFERENCES MIGHT POST TO FRIENDLY US-GUYANA RELATIONS. IT WAS NO ACCIDENT, THAT THE CITIZEN'S CENTERFOLD ARTICLE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTO OF OPPOSITION FIGURES CHEDDIE AND JANET JAGAN, WITH BROAD SMILES, ARRIVING AT THE US RECEPTION. THE GOG PUBLISHED THE PHOTO DELIBERATELY, ACCORDING TO FONMIN WILLS, TO GUARD AGAINST FUTURE ALLEGATIONS IN THE OPPOSITION PRESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS GETTING TOO CLOSE TO THE US.

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5. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS ARTICLES HINT AT THE PROSPECT OF THE US PROVIDING SOME DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, NO PUBLIC MENTION HAS BEEN MADE THAT THE US IS

DEVELOPING NEW AID PROJECTS. SINCE DEVELOPMENT  
ASSISTANCE IS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE, THE POSSIBILITY  
THAT THE US MIGHT INITIATE SOME NEW PROJECTS HAS  
CONSIDERABLE POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON OFFICIAL AND  
PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UNITED STATES.  
LOOKING FORWARD, THE PRESS COMMENTARY  
ANTICIPATES THE NAMING OF A NEW US AMBASSADOR SOON  
AND A VISIT BY ANDREW YOUNG.  
BLACKEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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